

64 -- Also shown in Figs. 2A and 2B are spring-action tabs 6 formed integrally with the housing 3. These are for fastening the annular cover 25 (omitted in Figs. 2A and 213) in place.-

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 40 without prejudice and add the following new claims.

5 41. (New) A grass-cutting head with a line, the head comprising:

65 a housing;

at least one spool placed in said housing and on which a line can be wound, said spool including an anchor for the line, said anchor being arranged to be accessible from outside said housing to enable the line to be connected to said anchor of said spool without taking said spool out of said housing;

a feed mechanism for feeding the line from said spool;

a winding mechanism for rotating said spool to enable a supply of the line to be wound onto said spool;

10 a stop connected to said housing to hold said spool in said housing while the line is being connected to said anchor.

42. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:

said winding mechanism rotates said spool from outside said housing without taking said spool out of said housing;

5 said stop means holds said spool in said housing while said supply of line is being wound onto said spool.

43. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:
said stop and said anchor are arranged spaced from each other in a radial direction of said spool.

65 44. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:
said spool defines a center opening;
said stop and said housing connect to each other through said center opening of said spool;
5 said stop extends radially outward further than said center opening of said spool.

45. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 44, wherein:
said anchor is arranged radially further outward than said stop.

46. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:
said anchor defines a line receiving hole opening in an axial direction of said spool.

47. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:
said feed mechanism includes a spring-action member;

said stop opposes action of said spring-action member when the head is opened to render said spool accessible from the outside;

said spool defines access slots providing access to said anchors.

48. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 47, wherein:

said stop includes retention members that act against the force of said spring-action member, preventing said spring action member from escaping from the housing when the housing is open to enable said supply of cutting line to be wound onto the spool;

said stop includes a support connected to said housing, said support rotatably holding said spool between said housing and said support;

an annular cover is connected to said housing and covers a side of said spool diametrically opposite said housing, said annular cover covers said access slots.

49. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:

said feed mechanism comprises in combination an actuating slider, a first series of feeding teeth integral with said spool and a second series of feeding teeth integral with said spool, feed teeth of the first series engaging with a first stop or group of stops rotationally fixed to said housing and feed teeth of the second series engaging with a second stop or group of stops rotationally fixed to said housing, positions of arrest of said spool defined by the first series of feed teeth and by the first stop or group of stops being angularly offset relative to positions of arrest of said spool defined by the second series of feed teeth and by the second

stop or group of stops;

10 and movement of said actuating slider causes an axial movement of the spool between two positions to bring the feed teeth of the first series or the feed teeth of the second series alternately into engagement with their respective stops, the spring-action member exerting a force on the spool.

50. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 49, wherein:

65 said housing includes a housing portion through which extends an axial hub of a rotary drive, and said spool being placed around said housing portion;

5 said stop includes a support connected to said housing, said support rotatably holding said spool between said housing and said support, said support defining axially elongated openings.

said first stop and said second stop are connected to said actuating slider, said first and second stops pass through said axially elongate openings in said support and engage with said feed teeth on the spool; and

10 an annular cover closes said housing and extends around the support for said spool.

51. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 50, wherein:

said support has winding teeth engaging with corresponding winding teeth on said housing portion.

52. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 51, wherein:
said winding teeth are shaped so as to allow rotation of the support and of the spool in
a winding direction and prevent rotation in an opposite direction.

53. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 50, wherein:
said support for said spool has a cylindrical wall around which the spool is placed and
said support also includes a supporting collar supporting said spool.

65 54. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 53, wherein:
said support has a cylindrical support in which said actuating slider moves, the
actuating slider being elastically pressed by said spring-action member.

55. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 53, wherein:
a generally cylindrical closing wall extends from said supporting collar, said annular
cover is mounted on said cylindrical closing wall.

56. (New) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 55, wherein:
a circular skirt defines a circumferential wall of the housing, said annular cover has an
edge that embraces said circular skirt.

57. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 47, wherein:

said stop includes retention members that act against the force of said spring-action member, preventing said spring action member from escaping from the housing when the housing is open to enable said supply of cutting line to be wound onto the spool;

5 said spool presses, under the action of said spring-action member, against said retention members integral with the housing.

58. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 57, wherein:

65 said retention members comprise anti-rotation means for manual rotation of the spool in a winding direction and prevent or obstruct rotation in an unwinding direction, said antirotation means being fitted between the said retention members and said spool.

59. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 58, wherein said anti-rotation means comprise a layer of friction material.

60. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 58, wherein said anti-rotation means comprise teeth.

61. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 60, wherein said teeth are integral with the spool.

62. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 61, wherein said teeth engage with

said retention members.

63. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 61, wherein said retention members have complementary teeth to the teeth on the spool.

64. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 57, wherein said retention members comprise one or more projections integral with a circumferential wall of the housing and projecting into its interior to form a rest for said spool.

65. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 64, wherein said projection includes an annular collar.

66. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 64, wherein said projections include tabs spaced apart and forming resting points distributed circumferentially around the periphery of said spool.

67. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 64, wherein said projections include radial pegs spaced apart and forming resting points distributed circumferentially around the periphery of said spool.

68. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 64, wherein said projection or

projections are mounted on the circumferential wall of the housing.

69. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 64, wherein said projections include spring-action tabs formed in one piece with said circumferential wall of the housing.

65 70. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 57, wherein said retention members are located in the central region of the spool.

71. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 70, wherein said retention members are engaged on an axial hub in the head.

72. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 68, wherein said retention members include a system of elastic snap engagements extending through an axial through hole in said spool in order to engage on said housing.

73. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 72, wherein said retention members comprise a sleeve extending axially through said axial hole of the spool and ending in snap-engaging spring-action tabs, in the interior of which is a seat for engagement of an axial hub, said seat having a cross section such as to be coupled in torsion with the said axial hub.

74. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 70, wherein said retention members comprise spring-action projections integral with said housing and extending through an axial through hole in the spool, for snap engagement with the edge of said spool.

75. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 57, wherein said retention members include a collar coaxial with the spool, engaged on the circumferential wall of the housing and forming a retention stop for said spring-action member.

65 76. (New) A grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 75, wherein said collar is integral with fasteners forming spring-action tabs that engage in corresponding seats let into the circumferential wall of the housing.

77. (New) A cutting head comprising:

a housing;

a spool rotatably mounted in said housing, cutting line being windable on said spool;

a feed mechanism for rotating said spool in an unwinding direction in said housing and

5 feeding cutting line off of said spool;

a winding mechanism for rotating said spool in a winding direction while said spool is in said housing and winding cutting line onto said spool, said winding mechanism including winding teeth rotatable with said spool and winding teeth fixed on said housing, said winding teeth having a shape to slide past each other when said spool is wound in said winding

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direction, said shape of said winding teeth blocking rotation of said spool with respect to said housing in said unwinding direction;

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a stop connected to said housing and blocking separation of said spool from said housing during winding of cutting line by said winding mechanism, said stop including a support connected to said housing, said support rotatably holding said spool between said housing and said support.

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78. (New) A head in accordance with claim 77, wherein:

said spool has projections to facilitate rotation of the spool by hand in the housing in order to cause the supply of line to be wound up.

79. (New) A head in accordance with claim 77, wherein:

said feed mechanism bypasses said winding mechanism to feed cutting line off said spool.

80. (New) A head in accordance with claim 77, wherein:

said stop and said winding mechanism share common structure;

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said winding connection forms a rotatable connection between said spool and said housing, said winding teeth rotatable with the housing being on a housing side of said rotatable connection, and said winding teeth rotatable with said spool being on a spool side of said rotatable connection.